United Nations A/61/292

General Assembly

Distr.: General
25 August 2006

Original: English

Sixty-first session
Items 57 and 60 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Operational activities for development: operational activities for development of the United Nations system

Advancement of women

Activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the report on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, prepared pursuant to Assembly resolution 39/125 of 14 December 1984.

Summary

The present report provides a review and update of the programme and activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) for 2005. The report tracks overall progress and highlights concrete results in the implementation of its multi-year funding framework 2004-2007 during the year under review. The report concludes with a set of recommendations on how the development and organizational effectiveness of UNIFEM can be further strengthened.

* A/61/150.

06-47999 (E) 260906

Contents

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	Introduction	1–3	3
II.	Development effectiveness	4–54	3
	A. Outcome 1	5–20	3
	B. Outcome 2	21–33	7
	C. Outcome 3	34–45	11
	D. Outcome 4	46–54	13
III.	Organizational effectiveness	55–81	15
	A. Performance goal 1	56–59	15
	B. Performance goal 2	60–66	16
	C. Performance goal 3	67–70	18
	D. Performance goal 4	71–74	19
	E. Performance goal 5	75–81	20
IV.	Recommendations	82	21

I. Introduction

1. The present report provides a review and update of the programmes and activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) for 2005. It tracks the progress made and highlights concrete results in the implementation of the second year of the UNIFEM multi-year funding framework, 2004-2007.[1] It concludes, in chapter IV, with a set of recommendations, based on the annual review undertaken by the UNIFEM Consultative Committee, on how the effectiveness of UNIFEM can be further strengthened.

2. While UNIFEM contributes to the achievement of reported results, changes at the outcome level represent efforts of multiple actors, including national partners in government and non-governmental organizations. UNIFEM plays the role of facilitator, advocate, technical adviser and convenor in achieving the results reported here, often together with United Nations partners, bilateral donors and other actors.

3. In 2005, the second year of the three-year term of the members of the UNIFEM Consultative Committee (Canada, Jordan, Mexico, the Niger and Slovenia), the Committee, under the chairmanship of Jordan, provided valuable guidance and advice to the Fund.

II. Development effectiveness

4. The four outcomes in the strategic results framework approved by the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund in January 2004[2] form the basis on which UNIFEM tracks progress made towards greater development effectiveness in the context of the multi-year funding framework.

A. Outcome 1
Legislation and policies at national and regional levels are formulated and implemented to promote and protect women's human rights

5. In 2005, UNIFEM provided support for legislative and policy change in order to strengthen gender equality through initiatives in more than 30 countries. These included support for securing passage of or implementing gender equality laws and policies in seven countries; passing, drafting and implementing laws to address violence against women in 10 countries; strengthening the gender dimensions of HIV/AIDS policies in three countries; engendering constitutional change in six countries; and advocating the removal of discriminatory laws in seven countries. UNIFEM has also continued its policy advocacy to mainstream gender equality into poverty reduction strategy papers in 18 countries.

[1] DP/2004/5 and Corr.1

[2] Ibid.

1. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

6. The ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women by 182 countries creates significant opportunities to support national efforts to align laws and policies with global and regional commitments. UNIFEM support of Convention-related reporting and implementation reached over 60 countries. Its regional programme in South-East Asia provided technical inputs to a draft implementation decree for the 2004 law on protection and development of women in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and applied Convention principles in the drafting of the gender equality law in Viet Nam. Programme partners have initiated legal reviews of economic laws in the Philippines and legislation relevant to women's electoral participation at national and provincial levels in Indonesia. Under the UNIFEM South Asia programme, convergence and divergence between the Convention and personal laws are currently being identified in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. Peer learning among individuals and countries is another core strategy that UNIFEM employs to strengthen Convention-related reporting and monitoring.

7. The results of two evaluations of UNIFEM support for strengthening Convention-related monitoring and implementation have demonstrated effective ways to build partnerships and dialogue between governments and civil society in the process of fulfilling human rights commitments. The first examined the UNIFEM-supported project "From global to local: a Convention monitoring and implementation project", implemented in partnership with the International Women's Rights Action Watch, Asia-Pacific, and the second focused on UNIFEM support of Convention-related programming in Pacific island countries.

8. With regard to the first project, since 1997 nearly 190 women, representing non-governmental organizations from more than 80 countries, have been trained to provide substantive inputs into Convention-related sessions and reporting processes and they have systematized the much needed relationship between the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and non-governmental organizations. The Pacific islands evaluation identified the facilitation of a mock session prior to the attendance of the representatives of Samoa at the meeting of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women as a good practice in assisting the government delegation to understand better the reporting process and to prepare for the United Nations hearing. Such sessions have been replicated in Thailand and Cambodia. The evaluation highlighted the benefits of a legitimate space and structured process for women's groups to engage with the Committee. It also recommended that UNIFEM promote more sector-specific approaches to the implementation of the Convention through coordination with the work of relevant United Nations organizations, regional organizations and donors.

2. National plans of action and gender equality laws

9. The 10-year review of the Beijing Platform for Action affirmed that at least 120 countries have national plans of action on gender equality. In 2005, UNIFEM supported the creation, approval or stronger implementation of national gender equality plans, policies and strategies in seven countries: Brazil, Dominica, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, Uruguay and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

10. Efforts are being invested in supporting or strengthening the capacity of countries to introduce gender equality laws, including in the Republic of Moldova, where the draft gender equality law was prepared in accord with international and national standards. The delegation of parliamentarians and women's non-governmental organizations from Tajikistan attending the UNIFEM-organized regional consultation on best practices in drafting and enforcing gender equality laws, in 2004, subsequently conducted extensive advocacy work to lobby for a draft law on equal rights and opportunities, which was adopted by the Parliament of Tajikistan in 2005.

3. Sector-specific laws and policies

11. UNIFEM continued to focus in every region on furthering laws and policies related to addressing violence against women, registering progress in a number of countries and regions.[3] Advocacy by non-governmental organizations and gender equality advocates in government, supported by UNIFEM and others, is resulting in legislative advances in the area of domestic violence. In 2005, domestic violence laws were passed by the lower house of parliament in India and by lawmakers in Bulgaria. In at least five countries (the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Kazakhstan, Nigeria and Zimbabwe), UNIFEM supported efforts to present draft laws for ratification. In addition, UNIFEM supported the preparation of family law reform legislation on behalf of member States of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, piloted by the Government of Saint Lucia. In Nigeria, UNIFEM funded the drafting of a bill on domestic violence and is a member of the task force set up to review the local courts act.

12. In 2005, UNIFEM continued to work with national AIDS councils, United Nations country teams, gender equality advocates, and women affected and infected by HIV/AIDS, to press for legislative reform related to gender equality and HIV/AIDS policies in Burkina Faso, the Dominican Republic, Kyrgyzstan, Mali, Senegal and Togo. In Senegal, UNIFEM provided support to parliamentarians in the use of the Convention as a framework for analysing existing laws and identifying practices that discriminate against HIV-positive women, resulting in a gender-sensitive draft law for the protection of persons living with HIV/AIDS to be tabled in the Parliament of Senegal in 2006.

13. Requests for UNIFEM assistance to maintain and implement positive action for women's political participation continue to grow, with UNIFEM providing support in 23 countries in 2005, including in 10 post-conflict countries. UNIFEM continues to support opportunities originating from commitments to positive action in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq and other post-conflict countries, and it supported new efforts in Ecuador (where a 20 per cent quota was obtained for women magistrates in 2005), Lesotho, South Africa, and Zimbabwe (in partnership with the Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum).

14. UNIFEM support of legal and policy change to reduce feminized poverty has focused on identifying groups of women workers and helping them advocate for legal provisions that protect their rights and enhance their livelihoods. The main

[3] Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Côte d'Ivoire, Georgia, Israel, occupied Palestinian territories, Kosovo (Serbia), Nepal, Senegal, Somalia and the Sudan, and the Eastern Caribbean and the Great Lakes regions.

focus has been on women in the informal economy, especially migrant workers in Asia and the Arab States, home-based workers in Asia, and indigenous and Afro-descendant workers in Latin America.

15. Now in its fifth year, the UNIFEM programme in support of the rights of women migrant workers in Asia and the Arab States continues to show results. In Indonesia, a local law on the protection of migrant workers in Blitar is awaiting passage. Public awareness campaigns with regard to legislation on the placement and protection of migrant workers began in December 2005. In Nepal, a foreign employment bill and regulation were drafted and a draft code of conduct for the Nepal Association of Foreign Employment Agencies has been agreed. The Ministry of Labour in Jordan is evaluating its internal regulations and investigating violations against women migrant workers, monitoring labour recruitment offices, and working closely with the Ministry of the Interior and the Police Department. Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic have shown interest in amending labour laws to include women migrant workers.

4. Policy changes related to resource allocation and poverty reduction strategy papers

16. UNIFEM has provided support for gender equality advocates in securing increased budgetary allocations within the context of new aid modalities, through poverty reduction strategy paper processes and through advocacy with Governments. Other changes in resource allocations have taken place largely within the context of work on gender-responsive budgeting, with a focus on building the capacity of ministries of finance and local municipalities, among others, to apply these tools to national and local budgets (see outcome 2 below).

17. UNIFEM launched an initiative to assist gender equality networks and organizations in Central and Eastern Europe to master the new financial instruments that will guide European Union development aid as of 2007. Advocacy by UNIFEM partners resulted in the inclusion of a reference to the need to allocate resources to gender equality programmes in the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance and the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument.

18. In 2005, UNIFEM partnered with the Nigeria Institute of Social and Economic Research and others to support mainstreaming gender equality into the "NEEDS/SEEDS" (national and state-level poverty reduction strategy) process. UNIFEM assisted the Government of Nigeria in developing gender-responsive guidelines for state governments, particularly with regard to the allocation of resources, and is co-chairing a donor coordinating group, with ongoing negotiations on the development of a basket funding mechanism for the promotion of gender equality.

19. In Senegal, the UNIFEM-supported gender-responsive budgeting initiative, housed within the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper Monitoring Unit, serves as a tool to link policy planning, poverty reduction strategy papers and Millennium Development Goals with budgeting. The initiative has resulted in agreements for joint activities between UNIFEM and the Parliamentary Centre for the training and sharing of experiences in gender-responsive budgeting among parliamentarians in the subregion and with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Subregional Resource Facility for West and Central Africa, and an agreement with

Cheikh Anta Diop University to produce methodological tools and analytical frameworks for five pilot sectors.

20. Advocacy activities supported by the Gender and Race Equality Programme in Brazil, which UNIFEM supports in partnership with the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, resulted in an increase in the 2004 annual budget of the Special Secretariat of Policies for Women from R$ 8 million (US$ 3.6 million) to R$ 22 million (US$ 10 million) to R$ 24.6 million (US$ 11.15 million) in 2005.

B. Outcome 2
Mainstream institutions demonstrate leadership commitment, technical capacity and accountability mechanisms to support gender equality and women's empowerment for gender equality

21. UNIFEM provides support for the long-term process of institutional change towards gender equality by strengthening the capacity of national and local partners to institutionalize tools such as sex-disaggregated data (39 instances) and gender-responsive budgets (20 countries), and by building strong partnerships between government and non-governmental organizations. In 2005, UNIFEM contributed to positive institutional changes through partnership with an increasingly wide range of government ministries, including ministries of finance and labour, the judiciary, law enforcement, parliaments, national AIDS councils and municipalities. UNIFEM is expanding its partnerships with other actors, including private sector partners and faith-based groups. In 2005, UNIFEM significantly increased its influence in inter-agency needs assessments and peacebuilding initiatives.

22. Institutional change towards gender equality is a long and difficult process. The UNIFEM approach involves (a) identifying in each context the specific institutions that offer the greatest potential for women's equal rights, justice and opportunities; (b) developing internal and external long-term partnerships for sustainable institutional change; and (c) building institutional capacity to enhance understanding of and accountability for gender equality. In addition to women's non-governmental organizations, national machineries for women and United Nations partners, which feature in the majority of the partnerships of UNIFEM, increased attention is placed on building linkages with a more diverse range of actors. The table below is illustrative of the wide range of mainstream actors at the national and regional levels with which UNIFEM engaged in gender equality initiatives in 2005.

Partners	*Africa*	*Asia-Pacific/ Arab States*	*Central and Eastern Europe/ Commonwealth of Independent States*	*Latin American countries*
Government — miscellaneous and/or cross-sectoral[a]		11	12	3
Ministries of finance	1	5	1	2
Ministries of labour		5	1	
Ministries of planning	3	2		1
Ministries of education		5	2	3
Ministries of telecommunications	1	1		
Ministries of justice/judiciaries	5	5	1	6
Parliaments	4	5	2	8
National AIDS councils	4	3	1	4
Municipalities/city councils	1	3	1	5
Police/law enforcement	3	6	1	
Faith-based groups		2		3
Trade unions		2	2	3
Private sector partners	1	5		1
Regional organizations	4	1	1	2
Truth and reconciliation commissions	2			

[a] Ministries of tourism, interior, investment, transport, health, human rights commissions and ombudsperson's offices.

23. The focus on Millennium Development Goals, poverty reduction strategy papers and other aid modalities, coupled with calls for evidence-based advocacy, demands accurate and up-to-date local, national, regional and global data, disaggregated by sex. Though UNIFEM neither collects nor generates such data, in 2005 it worked as an advocate and facilitator in 31 countries to improve coordination in the production of and commitment to using sex-disaggregated data as a basis for public policymaking. In many of these efforts, UNIFEM worked in partnership with regional economic commissions and other United Nations organizations. In 2005, UNIFEM provided support to the Mexico National Statistics Institute for the sixth time for hosting an annual gender and statistics/indicators workshop in Aguas Calientes that attracts representatives from numerous Latin American countries (in this case, the Central American countries and Bolivia, Colombia, Peru and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) as well as from other parts of the world. The meetings have resulted in Mexico's support of capacity-building in several Central American countries.

24. UNIFEM provides support for improved data on the incidence of violence against women, and the links between HIV/AIDS and poverty. Working at the subregional level, UNIFEM built on its ongoing work with seven countries in South Asia to forge an agreement at the gender database meeting of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation to begin harmonizing region-wide data on

violence against women. In many regions, the issue of women's unpaid care work is increasingly seen as a policy issue needing greater attention. UNIFEM provided support for the data gathering on women's time use, which was needed for formulating strategic policy recommendations in Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uruguay.

1. Gender-responsive budgets

25. Four years of intensive programming on gender-responsive budgeting have demonstrated that changing resource allocations is possible, as UNIFEM has seen results at both local and national levels. UNIFEM has provided support on gender-responsive budgeting in more than 30 countries over the past four years. The second phase of UNIFEM work on gender-responsive budgeting will pilot focused strategies for strengthening institutions in a smaller number of countries in order to introduce sustainable change and will build partnerships with other multilateral organizations to extend support of gender-responsive budgeting to a larger number of countries.

26. UNIFEM-supported work in gender-responsive budgeting has contributed to sustainable structural changes where finance and other ministries are instituting policies that ensure budgeting from a gender perspective, as is seen at the national level in Egypt, India, Morocco and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, as well as at the local level in Bolivia, Ecuador, India and Morocco. In Morocco, the first "engendered" economic and financial report was produced; it accompanies the 2006 finance bill. A gender report, annexed to the economic and financial report, will serve as a baseline to measure progress made towards gender-responsive budgeting in four ministerial departments (finance, health, education and agriculture). The UNIFEM collaboration with the National Council for Women and the Ministry of Finance in Egypt has resulted in doubling resources for gender equality to LE 3.257 billion (US$ 5.7 million) in the 2002-2007 plan. UNIFEM has also provided technical support for the establishment of an equal opportunity unit linked directly to the Minister of Finance.

2. The gender dimensions of HIV/AIDS

27. A creative partnership between UNIFEM and the Indian Railways, the third largest employer in the world, to incorporate gender-responsive policies and practices related to HIV/AIDS is achieving concrete results: wives of men who have died of AIDS are being employed through the Railways; workers living with HIV/AIDS facing harassment and stigma are being offered alternatives; individuals are increasingly demanding voluntary testing and antiretroviral drugs are being provided free of charge; and communications strategies are changing attitudes and redefining male responsibility, shifting the debate from illegitimate sex to safety in sexual relationships. The project is a recognized model of public sector intervention, and, in partnership with UNIFEM and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), representatives of the Chinese Railways have visited the programme to look into the possibilities for replication.

3. Reducing feminized poverty

28. In the Arab States and Africa, UNIFEM is linking government and private sector partners in order to enhance women's access to and control over the benefits

of information and communications technologies, particularly in addressing feminized poverty. In the Arab States, for instance, the successful programme in Jordan with Cisco Systems has been scaled up, and replications are operating in Lebanon and Morocco. Private sector partners, from Microsoft to Lego Robotics, are being drawn into the e-Village programme to expand economic opportunities in rural villages, including for women. The replication of the Cisco programme in Morocco involves the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Professional Training and Employment, the United States Agency for International Development, Cisco Systems and UNIFEM.

4. Eliminating violence against women

29. Combating violence against women requires solid institutional capacities and commitments from the law enforcement, justice and health sectors, along with partnerships with municipalities to make cities safe for women. Ministries of justice and the judiciary are key partners in this effort in Burundi, Nepal and Peru. In Nepal, as part of the UNIFEM anti-trafficking project, the National Judicial Academy has drafted minimum standards of victim-related judicial conduct and is training district judges to apply them. The National Human Rights Commission of Nepal has agreed to locate the national rapporteur on trafficking in its office. In the Southern Cone, UNIFEM provided support to Red de Mercociudades for strengthening the social and political participation of women in order to enable them to create safer public spaces. In Afghanistan, an inter-ministerial commission to eliminate violence against women has been established by presidential order. The military and police in selected provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo have established mixed commissions on sexual exploitation and gender-based violence.

30. Multi-stakeholder initiatives are also important underpinnings for institutional change. UNIFEM is assisting the Government of Morocco in implementing the reform of its Personal Status Code (Moudawana) through a multidimensional initiative to change the application of the law in the family courts. In Central America, UNIFEM support to parliaments led to an agreement to establish an inter-parliamentary network specifically to confront femicide in the region, linking to UNIFEM support to ISIS International to create a Latin American database on femicide.

5. Strengthening women's participation in peace processes

31. In 2005, UNIFEM tracked 13 examples of its support to inter-agency initiatives on peace and security.[4] UNIFEM worked to "engender" the response to the tsunami in South and South-East Asia and Somalia, and to Hurricane Ivan in the Caribbean in partnership with the Caribbean Development Bank. In 2005, UNIFEM participated in five United Nations/World Bank post-conflict needs assessments.[5] Somalia's joint needs assessment team adopted a UNIFEM gender equality methodology note and gender equality checklist, and subsequently included gender experts among the national expert group; appointed women as zonal co-

[4] Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Côte d'Ivoire, Georgia, Israel, occupied Palestinian territories, Kosovo (Serbia), Nepal, Senegal, Somalia and the Sudan, and the Eastern Caribbean and Great Lakes regions.

[5] Haiti, Iraq, Liberia, Somalia and the Sudan.

coordinators; and enhanced attention to gender and human rights in the cluster analyses. Women's participation in the Somali National Peace and Reconciliation Conference resulted in the incorporation of affirmative action for women's electoral representation in the transition charter.

32. Critical to sustainable strategies for mainstreaming gender equality in peace agreements are UNIFEM partnerships with regional organizations, particularly in Africa (such as the African Union, the Inter-Governmental Authority for Development, the Economic Community of West African States and the Economic Commission for Africa). For example, UNIFEM has continued to provide technical and financial support for gender mainstreaming in the International Conference on Peace, Security, Democracy and Development in the Great Lakes Region. A protocol on women's rights and sexual and gender-based violence was adopted at the technical level and awaits endorsement by the heads of State at the 2006 Summit.

33. The extent to which UNIFEM is engaged with coordination mechanisms and processes and is influencing United Nations country teams for gender equality in line with the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system[6] will be covered in chapter III, below, on organizational effectiveness.

C. Outcome 3
Gender equality advocates have the knowledge and are positioned to spearhead and transform policies, programmes and resource allocations

34. UNIFEM initiatives build or facilitate enhanced capacities in national and regional networks of gender equality advocates in order to secure gender-equitable policies, programmes and resource allocations. UNIFEM is increasingly focusing on specialized groups, such as networks of HIV-positive women, migrant women, indigenous women, rural women, women parliamentarians and ministries of women's affairs.

1. Ministries of women's affairs

35. In 2005, UNIFEM provided technical support to nearly 30 ministries of gender or women's affairs at the national level, as well as to networks bringing together ministers in Africa (in collaboration with UNFPA), Central America, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the English-speaking Caribbean and South Asia.

36. In Central America, UNIFEM is providing support to women ministers from the region who have formed the Council of Women Ministers of Central America within the structure of the Central American Integration System, which was approved by the presidents of Central America at their twenty-sixth meeting of heads of State. The Ministers agreed that placing women's interests on the region's economic agenda is their highest priority.

37. In Afghanistan, UNIFEM provided support to the Ministry of Women's Affairs in order to involve 25 other ministries in the development of a national action plan

[6] See A/RES/59/250.

for women in Afghanistan. The action plan has been integrated into the planning process for the Interim Afghan National Development Strategy (its first Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper), and into the Afghanistan Compact launched by the London Conference on Afghanistan, held on 31 January and 1 February 2006.

2. Women candidates

38. In 2005, UNIFEM provided support to women as candidates and women parliamentarians in every region and in 16 countries.[7] As a result of a symposium held in Beirut, the Arab Women Parliamentary Network was established within the Committee for Women's Affairs of the Arab Parliamentary Union. UNIFEM provided specific training to potential candidates and supported the mobilization of women candidates for both national and local contests. UNIFEM engaged in outreach and education of women voters in Liberia, contributing to the election of the first African woman president, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.

3. Women's networks

39. UNIFEM contributed to the establishment or strengthening of more than 50 national and regional non-governmental women's networks and multi-stakeholder groups advocating for women's rights, including through the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women.

40. UNIFEM is supporting networks of HIV-positive women in Cambodia, Cameroon, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, India, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, as well as in the Caribbean and West Africa, and a new pan-African network to enhance their policy advocacy. UNIFEM supported the advocacy efforts of the Positive Women's Network of India, with the result that the national machinery for women and other ministries are responding decisively to mainstream issues of women living with HIV/AIDS. The network is strengthening its work at the state and district levels, and has mainstreamed priorities in the next phase of the national AIDS plan.

41. UNIFEM is strengthening its cooperation with and support of networks of indigenous women, especially in Latin America and Central and Eastern Europe. In Brazil, UNIFEM is providing support for an innovative partnership between Afro-descendant and indigenous women in order to build a common agenda against discrimination.

42. UNIFEM support and advocacy for change in the gender balance and outcomes of peace negotiations and responses to natural disasters have intensified significantly over the past 10 years, with examples emerging in 2005 from Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cote d'Ivoire, Georgia, Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories, Kosovo (Serbia), Nepal, Senegal, Somalia, and the Sudan, as well as in the Eastern Caribbean and the Great Lakes regions and in tsunami-affected countries. With many years of experience in these processes in over 20 countries, UNIFEM has developed an approach that consistently yields gains for women's rights in peacebuilding. For example, in 2005 UNIFEM worked with

[7] Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Fiji, Lesotho, Liberia, Nigeria, Paraguay, Samoa, South Africa, the Sudan, Timor-Leste, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and Zimbabwe.

women from the north and south of the Sudan to develop a united agenda and to present a joint statement of recommendations to the Oslo Donors' Conference.

43. In 2005, the Executive Director of UNIFEM was asked by Israeli and Palestinian women leaders to organize a dialogue between them to identify their common priorities for peace, which resulted in the formation of the International Women's Commission to support a just and sustainable Israeli-Palestinian peace. The Commission was endorsed by a decree from the President of the Palestinian National Authority, while the Israeli Knesset endorsed the participation of women in the peace process.

44. UNIFEM works to expand women's earning potential by linking this to Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and other elements of macroeconomic reform. In addition, UNIFEM supports women's entrepreneurial activity at the ground level. Activities are taking place in Burundi, Cameroon, India, Jordan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Morocco, Rwanda and Zambia. In post-tsunami Aceh, Indonesia, UNIFEM provided local women's groups with direct assistance to rebuild their businesses. The UNIFEM team in Aceh is using this experience to ensure gender mainstreaming in larger microcredit institutions, as women have articulated the need for access to such facilities.

45. Expanding the influence of women in advocacy for greater access to justice remains high on the UNIFEM agenda. In Southern Africa, a court digest has been developed, with UNIFEM support, which will be used to raise the profile of women judges and equip them for leadership roles in their respective judiciaries and justice delivery systems.

D. Outcome 4
Harmful and discriminatory attitudes and practices change to promote and protect the rights of women and girls

46. In 2005, UNIFEM worked to increase the reach of media organizations and professionals that generate messages and stories in support of gender equality in 23 countries, as well as through three subregional initiatives. It has contributed to strengthening or establishing more than 30 institutional mechanisms that directly address attitudes and practices related to gender-based violence. It supported a number of efforts in all regions to address gender disparity in wages, including through providing support for migrant women workers, women's access to information and communication technology, and increasing the access of entrepreneurs to markets.

47. Supporting media and awareness campaigns is a key strategy for affecting micro-level change. UNIFEM contributes its technical expertise and funds to United Nations partnerships in support of campaigns to raise gender issues in national elections. The Iraq national constitution and referendum awareness campaign complemented an extensive direct outreach and training, supported by UNIFEM, which contributed to a 60 per cent voter turnout. A United Nations-supported media campaign in the Democratic Republic of the Congo had a component to encourage women's participation in a referendum to include gender-equality provisions in the constitution and electoral law. It employed a mix of media, reaching over 20,000 people. Sixty per cent of the voters were women.

48. UNIFEM support of institutional mechanisms and outreach to new constituencies in order to reduce gender-based violence included work with law enforcement, justice systems, service providers, multi-stakeholder partnerships, men's networks and faith-based institutions. UNIFEM provided support to women's networks for the provision of training to police on preventing and responding to domestic violence cases in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Sierra Leone, as well as in India. UNIFEM is working to improve the conditions of shelters in Afghanistan and Peru and with men's groups in Grenada, India, Kazakhstan and Nepal. In South Asia, UNIFEM is developing innovative partnerships with inter-faith religious leaders on the supportive role of men in addressing violence against women, resulting in religious leaders advocating steps to reduce it in their regular sermons. This process is being scaled up in Bangladesh, India and Nepal. Since 2004, UNIFEM has been working closely with Full Jazz, a women-owned advertising company in Brazil, in order to create publicity pieces for raising funds through a national trust fund to combat violence against women. In 2005, the campaign raised $45,000 in local contributions.

49. Challenging the attitudes and stereotypes that perpetuate women's unequal remuneration for their labour has permeated a number of UNIFEM initiatives, particularly in Central and Eastern Europe/the Commonwealth of Independent States, as well as in Asia and the Arab States. The 2005 edition of the biennial publication *Progress of the World's Women* makes a strong case for assiduously documenting and supporting women's participation in the informal economy as a key strategy for poverty reduction, and incorporating more targets and indicators related to women's employment in national reports on Millennium Development Goals. UNIFEM works to strengthen evidence-based advocacy, support collective action and build women's capacity to enhance their income power through partnerships with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Bank, the regional economic commissions and local research institutions. In the Central and Eastern Europe/Commonwealth of Independent States region, UNIFEM produced a study entitled "The story behind the numbers", which provides a more nuanced picture of women's economic situation in the region as a backdrop for national efforts on the Millennium Development Goals, questioning what gender equality means when both men and women have few opportunities in labour markets.

Challenges and future priorities

50. Over the past eight years, UNIFEM has strengthened its focus on providing support to countries for achieving or strengthening policy and legal change in alignment with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other normative agreements. Evaluations and assessments have demonstrated that this needs to be linked more closely with customary and traditional laws, particularly at local levels. This is an emerging area of programming for UNIFEM in 2006.

51. The aid effectiveness agenda promises new modalities, opportunities and challenges for gender equality, but the voices and perspectives of gender equality experts and advocates have largely been absent from the agenda-setting process. UNIFEM first convened with the European Union on this topic in November 2005, beginning a process of capacity development and broadening stakeholder dialogues to include women's priorities. Sharpening the UNIFEM strategy on mainstreaming

gender equality into aid effectiveness is a high priority for the biennium 2006-2007, and will focus on spearheading regional consultations.

52. Despite the larger numbers of United Nations organizations working on ending violence against women, a coordinated, unswerving and effective response to this crisis from the multilateral system, especially in conflict and post-conflict areas, remains elusive. UNIFEM has been working with other United Nations partners in all regions to address this gap, but progress has been slow. In 2006, UNIFEM will continue to work with UNDP, UNFPA, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO) and non-governmental organization partners to step up action on addressing rape in conflict situations, and will also deepen work with sister agencies to strengthen knowledge of and investment in effective strategies for reducing violence against women. UNIFEM is partnering with the World Bank to develop evaluation guidelines for use in assessing the effectiveness of strategies supported by the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women.

53. Expanding UNIFEM support for efforts to improve the use of data and statistics as a basis for more gender-responsive policies and programmes at the national level will require greater focus and linkages to concrete results. Support is often provided in response to requests and opportunities emerging from programming related to Millennium Development Goals, poverty reduction strategy papers and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks. UNIFEM is finalizing a review of its data and statistics work to devise a strategy built on effective partnerships with United Nations organizations, national statistics institutes and others.

54. UNIFEM reporting on outcome 4 of its multi-year funding framework, 2004-2007 remains the weakest aspect of its work. Additionally, most UNIFEM programmes have not collected the baseline data to facilitate understanding of changes in attitudes and practices. Initiatives to improve implementation and reporting on outcome 4 will take place in the biennium 2006-2007.

III. Organizational effectiveness

55. The five performance goals in the multi-year funding framework, 2004-2007, are used to track progress towards greater organizational effectiveness of UNIFEM in the context of the framework.

A. Performance goal 1
Coherence, relevance and sustainability of UNIFEM products and services recognized

56. In reporting on performance goal 1, UNIFEM reviews the extent to which its products and services respond to opportunities and demand; how its capacity and timeliness in monitoring and tracking results are changing; the extent to which its innovations are replicated or scaled up; and how learning from evaluation and knowledge management systems influences programme strategies and directions.

57. In 2005, UNIFEM tracked 19 instances of replication or scaling up, compared to 28 instances in 2004.[8] Governments, United Nations organizations and non-governmental organization partners are the primary constituencies that replicate or scale up UNIFEM-supported initiatives. In 2005, UNIFEM provided technical advice to the secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development on development of a plan of action to involve women in "engendering" the African Peer Review Mechanism. This will be replicated by the African Union throughout the region. The process used by Nigeria to "engender" the National AIDS Council through capacity-building is being scaled up through the UNDP Sub-Regional Resource Facility for West and Central Africa, with the goal of "engendering" national and regional HIV/AIDS policies.

58. UNIFEM continued to promote better content and dissemination of electronic products, for example, by revamping its website, which had 17.7 million hits in 2005. Obtaining reliable and up-to-date information on the relevance of its programmes from high quality evaluations and using the findings to improve performance is a high priority for the organization, which undertook seven evaluations in 2005, still noting the need to strengthen this function. To improve results-oriented reporting and evaluation, UNIFEM finalized a rights-based guide, entitled, "Essential guide to results-based management" and a core group was established to act as a dynamic network of internal results-based management resource persons.

59. General Assembly resolution 60/137 of 16 December 2005 on the United Nations Development Fund for Women was co-sponsored by 113 Member States and provided important recognition of UNIFEM efforts and contributions.

B. Performance goal 2
Capacity of UNIFEM programmes aligned with demand and opportunities to introduce and support innovation, learning and results at all levels

60. UNIFEM tracks its influence in United Nations reform processes, including the Millennium Development Goals, common country assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, poverty reduction strategy papers and aid-effectiveness processes, and its role in the United Nations Development Group and United Nations country teams. It aligns its work with the recommendations related to strengthening action on gender equality contained in the triennial comprehensive policy review,[9] and assesses the extent to which these processes become platforms for strengthening commitments to and investments in women's empowerment. UNIFEM stepped up its activity in all these processes in 2005.

61. In response to the recommendations of the triennial comprehensive policy review, the United Nations Development Group established the Task Team on Gender Equality, which reports to the United Nations Development Group Programme Group, with the objective of supporting more consistent and coherent

[8] In 2004, numerous projects were completing their programme cycle, as compared to those in 2005 that were in their first stages, accounting for the slight decline in examples in this category.

[9] See A/RES/59/250.

action among, as a first step, the United Nations Development Group member agencies in mainstreaming gender equality and promoting women's empowerment, and ensuring that gender equality and women's empowerment are squarely on the agenda of the United Nations Development Group and mainstreamed into the wide range of tools and guidance that it prepares and disseminates to the United Nations country teams. UNIFEM assumed the chair of the Task Team, which has a five-point work plan and the involvement of 16 United Nations organizations. The Task Team has reviewed the last generation of common country assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and undertaken field-based reviews in three countries as part of its work plan. It reviews regularly Resident Coordinator annual reports in order to assess the reflection of efforts to coordinate on gender equality. It also commissioned an overview of accountability mechanisms embedded in the policy and programming guidance of the four United Nations Executive Committee agencies and the International Labour Organization. The findings of these initiatives formed the basis of recommendations for a common approach to strengthening accountability for the gender equality programming and policies of the United Nations country teams and was shared with and endorsed by the United Nations Development Group Principals.

62. In 2005, UNIFEM contributed to the common country assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework processes in 37 countries[10] (compared to 14 in 2004), to Millennium Development Goal processes in 32 countries[11] (compared to 15 country and five regional initiatives in 2004), to inter-agency initiatives on peace and security in 13 countries, and it chaired 15 gender theme groups[12] (compared to 11 in 2004) while participating in numerous other activities in countries where there is no UNIFEM office.

63. UNIFEM work on the common country assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks is most meaningful when it leads to commitment and resources for gender equality, as it did in Uganda where the inclusion of specific gender-related outcomes and outputs in the results matrix facilitated the development of a UNIFEM/UNDP joint programme on sexual and gender-based violence. With respect to the United Nations country teams, several Resident Coordinators have requested UNIFEM support for undertaking gender audits or reviews of United Nations country team performance, including in Morocco and Zimbabwe. Results of the audit in Zimbabwe have generated a request by the new Deputy Representative of the United Nations Population Fund for UNIFEM to do the same for the Mozambique United Nations country team.

[10] Eritrea, Ghana, the Niger, Senegal, the United Republic of Tanzania,Uganda, Zimbabwe; Bangladesh, Bhutan, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, the occupied Palestinian territories; Belize, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Suriname, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; Afghanistan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Cambodia, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Thailand, Viet Nam, Barbados, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Liberia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Guyana.

[11] Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Kosovo (Serbia), Tajikistan, Morocco; Bhutan, Eritrea, India, Kenya, Mauritania, Mozambique, Senegal, Zambia, Zimbabwe; Cambodia, China, Egypt, Nepal; Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

[12] Colombia, Ecuador, Fiji, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico; Kazakhstan, Kosovo (Serbia), Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation; Morocco; Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe.

64. Within the United Nations country teams, UNIFEM chairs or co-chairs inter-agency thematic and working groups on gender, as well as theme groups on HIV/AIDS, poverty, governance and data. The activities of the gender theme groups are in many cases lowering transaction costs for Governments by advocating for a more harmonized approach by the United Nations in support of gender equality plans and mechanisms, as has been the case in Kazakhstan, Kosovo (Serbia) and Zimbabwe.

65. UNIFEM leadership of gender theme groups provides opportunities to rally the United Nations country teams around joint initiatives, even where UNIFEM lacks presence. In China, UNIFEM is managing a gender facility fund at the request of the Resident Coordinator that brings together all United Nations organizations in soliciting and supporting gender equality proposals from Chinese organizations.

Approaches to mainstreaming a gender perspective in the Millennium Development Goals

66. A two-year, five-country UNDP project executed by UNIFEM has demonstrated innovative approaches to bringing a stronger gender equality perspective to Millennium Development Goal processes. In Cambodia, strengthened partnerships between civil society, unions, women's groups, government and United Nations partners have enhanced gender mainstreaming in the national strategic development plan and the updated Cambodian Millennium Development Goal report. In Kenya, results from dialogues with poor women have fed into government initiatives on poverty reduction strategy papers, the common country assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the costing exercises of the Millennium Project. In Morocco, the pilot project launched an "engendered" Millennium Development Goal report and is now focused on gender-responsive Millennium Development Goal costing implemented by the Ministry of Finance, which in turn has increased the gender-equality content of the common country assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework. The pilot project in Peru focused on the Millennium Development Goal campaigning activities of the United Nations country team, using media outreach resulting in increased actions related to the Goals, especially among women's networks, youth, academia and public officials.

C. Performance goal 3
Strategic partnerships generate new and expanded constituencies and learning for gender equality

67. UNIFEM partnerships with member States and women's networks are covered in other sections of the present report. Performance goal 3 refers primarily to strategic partnerships with multilateral, international non-governmental organization and private sector partners.

Multilateral organizations and international non-governmental organizations

68. In 2005, UNIFEM was executing 18 projects for UNDP, as compared to 10 projects in 2004. UNDP country offices reported on 95 instances in 75 countries of partnerships with UNIFEM in 2005. With regard to the evaluation of gender

mainstreaming in UNDP,[13] 70 per cent of country offices cited "effective or very effective" cooperation between the two organizations. In 2005, the new Administrator appointed the UNIFEM Executive Director as a full member of the Strategic Management Team.

69. UNIFEM has partnerships in over 40 inter-agency initiatives at both field and headquarters levels. It continues to have strong partnerships with UNFPA and UNICEF, including on ending violence against women, gender and HIV/AIDS, and gender-responsive budgeting. A particularly innovative area that emerged in 2005 was the collaborative work on the prevention of gender-based violence, an initiative spearheaded by UNIFEM, UNDP, UNFPA, WHO and civil society partners.

70. Stronger partnerships with new United Nations organizations emerged in 2005, including with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on the issue of HIV/AIDS among women drug users in India; the International Telecommunications Unit in Senegal; the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on food security in the context of HIV/AIDS; the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on safe cities for women; the International Fund for Agricultural Development on reaching rural poor women; and ILO on informal-sector employment for women. Concrete initiatives have emerged with the World Bank on Millennium Development Goal 3 and ending violence against women. UNIFEM has also expanded private sector partnerships, including with Johnson & Johnson (in support of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women), Calvert Investment Group, and Cisco Systems (in the Arab States).

D. Performance goal 4
Management and administration of financial and human resources aligned with commitment to excellence, empowerment and rights

71. In 2004, UNIFEM and UNDP finalized updated operational guidelines to underpin administrative and financial accountability, the provision of services and procedures between the two organizations. In 2005, the focus was on finalizing the specific areas of authority and accountability needed to ensure effective, efficient programming, particularly in the light of new capacities made possible by the Atlas system and the management reforms being instituted through the United Nations reform process.

72. In 2005, significant focus was placed on strengthening cooperation between UNIFEM and UNDP in the United Nations or UNDP regional centres, focusing on Bratislava and Johannesburg. While joint programming has been formulated in both subregional offices, clarification over financial responsibility is required.

73. The revised guidelines between UNDP and UNIFEM stipulate that service level agreements for cost recovery arrangements be negotiated and finalized between the two parties. At the time of reporting, six agreements had been signed and four others were under negotiation.

74. During the last quarter of 2005, a UNIFEM task team worked with a UNDP management consulting team to conduct functional analysis and identify priorities

[13] See DP/2006/5.

for alignment in the context of simplification and harmonization measures. UNIFEM will prioritize the strengthening of its human and operational capacities in the first part of 2006.

E. Performance goal 5
A larger, more diversified and more reliable resource base supports capacity of UNIFEM to meet opportunities and commitments

75. In 2005, UNIFEM total income reached a record high of $57.6 million, compared with a total income of $51.1 million in 2004. UNIFEM exceeded its overall multi-year funding framework target for the year of $43.4 million. Core contributions in 2005 stood at $22 million, against the $25.4 million anticipated in the framework, as shown in the following table:

UNIFEM total income

(Millions of United States dollars)

	Projected 2005	*Actual 2005*	*Actual 2004*
Core	25.4	22.0	23.2
Non-core	15.0	31.6	25.9
Miscellaneous	2.0	4.0	2.0
Total	**42.4**	**57.6**	**51.1**

76. In 2005, a total of 42 bilateral donors contributed to UNIFEM core funds, compared to 43 in 2004.

77. The following 17 Governments increased their contribution to UNIFEM: Andorra, Australia, Bangladesh, the Czech Republic, Finland, Guyana, Ireland, Luxembourg, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Singapore, Turkey and the United States of America. The Governments of Azerbaijan and the Syrian Arab Republic became new donors, and the Government of Pakistan resumed as a contributor to core resources.

78. Real growth resulted from the significant increase in cost-sharing and trust fund agreements. The actual amounts received were $27.7 million in 2005 compared to $20.0 million in 2004 for cost-sharing and $3.9 million in 2005 compared to $5.9 million in 2004 for trust funds.

Challenges and future priorities

79. The significant rise in the numbers of common country assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework and Millennium Development Goal processes to which UNIFEM contributed in 2005 is an indicator of how UNIFEM staff are expanding access to technical expertise for Governments and United Nations country teams. Nevertheless, staff report that these processes often require a high degree of input while generating too few gender-equality benefits. A rigorous

review of efforts to date, better internal policy guidance, and identification of specialized staff for this work are needed to increase the return on investment.

80. UNIFEM recognizes the need to improve capacity and output in documenting and marketing innovations to support gender equality and women's rights that can be scaled up and replicated. It is taking the following steps in this direction: (a) strengthening its evaluation capacity to be able to back up its claims of what works with more rigorous evaluation data; (b) participating in a cross-regional research programme on women's empowerment drivers, sponsored by the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, housed at the Institute for Development Studies, and partnering with research institutes in Bangladesh, Brazil, Egypt and Ghana; and (c) focusing more systematically on innovation and impact, including through a potential partnership with the World Bank and the launch of an innovation institute with UNDP and other United Nations partners.

81. While progress has been made on the recommendations of the assessment commissioned by the UNIFEM Consultative Committee and on the programmatic partnership with UNDP, key actions are still needed in critical areas. The United Nations reform process offers important opportunities to address these actions and to increase the authority, status and resources of UNIFEM in order to strengthen the ability of the United Nations system to deliver greater gender equality expertise and advocacy, and to achieve greater coherence, especially at the level of the United Nations country teams, to assist countries to realize their gender equality commitments in the context of national ownership.

IV. Recommendations

82. **The UNIFEM Consultative Committee, which is comprised of five Member States (Canada, Jordan, Mexico, the Niger and Slovenia) appointed by the President of the General Assembly, provides key recommendations to the organization each year. The Committee, at its forty-sixth session, made the following recommendation**:

The UNIFEM Consultative Committee,

1. ***Welcomes*** **the reaffirmation in the 2005 World Summit Outcome[14] of the international community's commitments to women's empowerment and gender equality, although it notes that challenges still remain**;

2. ***Welcomes also*** **the appointment of the new Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and is much encouraged by his commitment to women's rights issues, and hopes that his dedication will be shared by all in the UNDP/UNIFEM family**;

3. ***Further welcomes*** **the appointment of Ms. Nicole Kidman as the third UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassador, joining HRH Princess Basma bint Talal and Ms. Phoebe Asiyo, and looks forward to receiving a brief report next year on the activities of all three Goodwill Ambassadors**;

[14] A/RES/60/1.

4. *Emphasizing* that UNIFEM is an essential component of the United Nations gender architecture and of the ongoing United Nations reform effort, *recommends* that UNIFEM continue to be involved in all such processes, including the discussions on the mandate review and system-wide coherence. In this regard, the Consultative Committee welcomes the ongoing discussions on the organizational assessment[15] within the United Nations system;

5. *Welcomes* UNIFEM work with the United Nations Development Group Office on a system-wide work plan for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 59/250 of 22 December 2004 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and its contribution of technical expertise to the strengthening of the ability of United Nations country teams to integrate gender analysis in their work. In this regard, the Consultative Committee encourages UNIFEM to extend this work and seek additional resources;

6. *Requests* that UNIFEM report to it annually on the multi-year funding framework, 2004-2007, tracking progress according to the key results and indicators and including how it has utilized the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women as a basis for programming;

7. *Notes with appreciation* the report on the implementation of the second year of the multi-year funding framework, 2004-2007, and expresses its satisfaction for its focus on outcomes. It encourages current and potential donors to devote a greater share of their contributions to UNIFEM regular resources and make commitments to multi-year funding. Furthermore, it encourages all member States, in this thirtieth anniversary year, to commit to the full funding of the current multi-year funding framework;

8. *Welcomes* the signature of the revised operational guidelines between UNIFEM and UNDP and of the instrument for the delegation of authority;

9. *Underscores* the importance of ensuring that cost recovery arrangements with UNDP reflect its responsibilities to support UNIFEM programmes as outlined in Assembly resolution 39/125 of 14 December 1984, and be negotiated in line with cost recovery arrangements with other associated funds;

10. *Having reviewed* the decision taken at its forty-fifth session to allow the Executive Director to allocate core funds in programming as soon as possible after January 1st, *decides* that no adjustments are required for 2006 in these allocations;

11. *Welcomes* the decision by the Executive Committee on Peace and Security to include UNIFEM in discussions relating to the mandate of its office, but continues to believe that UNIFEM should participate on a regular basis in all high-level inter-departmental/-agency committees,

[15] A/60/62-E/2005/10.

bodies and meetings, including the Executive Committee on Peace and Security, the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS;

12. *Stressing* the importance of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 for the work of the Peacebuilding Commission, *advises* UNIFEM to second a staff member to the Peacebuilding Support Office;

13. *Expresses* its gratitude for the ongoing efforts of UNIFEM where gender justice is concerned, following the high-level meeting, held in August 2005, to follow up the Conference on Gender Justice in Post-Conflict Situations;

14. *Agrees* in principle on the need to stagger the election of new Consultative Committee members, and will return to this issue, together with the question of expansion of its membership, at a later date;

15. *Decides* to convene another two meetings: one early in March 2006 and the other prior to the start of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly.